



Security Council

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**Note verbale dated 19 June 2000 from the Permanent Mission
of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to forward the attached press release on the assignment of the Facilitator for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, issued by the Government of the Republic of Botswana on Saturday, 17 June 2000 (see annex). The Secretary-General is requested to distributed the press release as a document of the Security Council.



Annex to the note verbale dated 19 June 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

The Government of Botswana is deeply concerned by reports that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has demanded the withdrawal of former President Sir Ketumile Masire from his assignment as Facilitator for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. This decision, which is regrettable, constitutes a very serious setback to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government of Botswana wishes to reaffirm its full confidence in the personal integrity and competence of Sir Ketumile Masire. It is therefore unacceptable for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to question the integrity of Sir Ketumile Masire. We are confident that Sir Ketumile's experience and broad understanding of international issues would, if given a chance and with the full cooperation of the parties, prove invaluable in ensuring the success of the noble and delicate mission that has been entrusted to him.

The Government of Botswana wishes to emphasize that the responsibility to bring about a permanent peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo rests with the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo themselves. The international community, through the efforts of Sir Ketumile and others, can only assist in ensuring the success of this process.

Department of Foreign Affairs
Gaborone

17 June 2000.
